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Pope Francis

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December 2015

Dec. 3 – Pope's Address to Plenary Assembly of Congregation for Evangelization of Peoples – Translated conclusion (December 03, 2015, ZENIT.org).

May Mary Most Holy, Mother of God, ..., illumine our steps in the service of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus.

Dec. 5 – Pope's Address to Catholic Schools Parents' Association – Translated conclusion (December 07, 2015, ZENIT.org).

May the Lord Jesus, who in the Holy Family of Nazareth, grew in age, wisdom and grace (cf. Luke 2:52), support your steps and bless your daily commitment.

Dec. 6 – Angelus Address – Translated conclusion (December 06, 2015, ZENIT.org).

May we be aided in this by Our Lady — who is Mother and who knows how to do it — to bring down the walls and the obstacles that impede our conversion, that is, our journey toward the encounter with the Lord.

Dec. 8 – Holy Mass and Opening of the Holy Door: Homily – Translated beginning (December 8, 2015, Vatican).

Again and again these readings make us think of the words by which the angel Gabriel told an astonished young girl of the mystery which was about to enfold her: "Hail, full of grace" (Lk 1:28).

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2015/documents/papa-francesco_20151208_giubileo-omelia-apertura.html

Dec. 8 – Angelus Address – Translated beginning (December 08, 2015, ZENIT.org).

Today, the feast of the Immaculate Conception makes us contemplate Our Lady who, by a singular privilege, was preserved from Original Sin from her conception. Although living in the world marked by sin, she was not touched by it: she is our Sister in suffering, but not in evil and in sin. In fact, evil was defeated in her even before grazing her, because God filled her with grace (cf. Luke 1:28). The Immaculate Conception means that Mary is the first saved by the Father's infinite mercy, as the first fruit of the salvation that God wills to give, in Christ, every man and woman. Therefore, the Immaculate [Virgin] became the sublime icon of Divine Mercy that has conquered sin. And we, today, at the beginning of the Jubilee of Mercy, want to look at this icon with confident love and contemplate her in all her splendor, imitating her faith.

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/angelus-address-on-god-s-mercy-which-awaits-us-pardons-all>

Dec. 8 – Pope Francis Pays Homage to the Virgin Mary at Piazza di Spagna -- Translated beginning (December 8, 2015, ZENIT.org).

Virgin Mother, On this day, the feast of your Immaculate Conception, I pay homage to you in faith and love On behalf of God's holy people who live in this city and diocese. I come before you in the name of families, with their joys and troubles; On behalf of children and young people, exposed to life's challenges; On behalf of the elderly, laden with age and years of experience; I come especially on behalf of the sick, the imprisoned, And those who struggle.

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-francis-pays-homage-to-the-virgin-mary-at-piazza-di-spagna>

Dec. 8 – Overcome indifference and win peace: the Pope's Message for the 49th World Day of Peace – Translated conclusion (December 15, 2015, VIS).

I entrust these reflections, together with my best wishes for the New Year, to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, who cares for the needs of our human family, that she may obtain from her Son Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the granting of our prayers and the blessing of our daily efforts for a fraternal and united world.

Dec. 9 – General Audience – Translated conclusion (December 09, 2015, ZENIT.org).

Yesterday, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, we began the Jubilee of Mercy. May the Virgin Mary intercede for us, so that this Holy Year is rich in copious

fruits and, that everyone experiences God's care for us. May she guide our action according to the works of corporal and spiritual mercy, which we are all called to live.

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

[http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/general-audience-on-holy-year-of-mercy?utm_campaign=dailyhtml&utm_content=\[ZE151209\]%20The%20world%20seen%20from%20Rome&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dispatch&utm_term=Image](http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/general-audience-on-holy-year-of-mercy?utm_campaign=dailyhtml&utm_content=[ZE151209]%20The%20world%20seen%20from%20Rome&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dispatch&utm_term=Image)

Dec. 10 – Pope Francis: Telegram of Condolence for Card. Terrazas – Translated conclusion (December 11, 2015, Vatican Radio).

At this inevitably painful time so close to the mysterious coming of the hope of the Lord, I invoke the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary

Dec. 12 – Pope's Homily for Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Translated beginning (December 14, 2015, ZENIT.org).

These words of the prophet Zephaniah, addressed to Israel, may also be referred to Mary, the Church, and every person, all of whom are loved by God's merciful love.

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

[http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-homily-for-feast-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe--2?utm_campaign=dailyhtml&utm_content=\[ZE151214\]%20The%20world%20seen%20from%20Rome&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dispatch&utm_term=Image](http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-homily-for-feast-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe--2?utm_campaign=dailyhtml&utm_content=[ZE151214]%20The%20world%20seen%20from%20Rome&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dispatch&utm_term=Image)

Dec. 13 – Pope Francis' Angelus Address – Translated conclusion (December 13, 2015, ZENIT.org).

May the Virgin Mary help us to strengthen our faith, because we welcome the God of joy, the God of mercy, who always wants to live in the midst of her children. And our Mother teaches us to share tears with those who weep, but also to be able to share a smile.

Dec. 14 – Article Pope's Address to “Policoro Project” of Italian Episcopal Conference – Translated conclusion (December 14, 2015, ZENIT.org).

May the Face of God's mercy, which always illumined the Holy Family entrusted to him in custody, shine on your path and indicate ways of creativity and hope.

Our Lady looked at Saint Joseph, as he taught Jesus to work. Let us pray to Our Lady to teach us how to help to find work, work for so many young people.

Dec. 16 – General Audience: On Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy – Translated conclusion (December 16, 2016, ZENIT.org).

Let us entrust ourselves to Mary, teacher of faith and model of obedience to the Lord. Dear young people, be able to live Christmas with the same faith with which Mary received the Annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel. Dear sick, ask Her to obtain for you that profound peace that Jesus brought to the world. Dear newlyweds, imitate the example of God's Mother with prayer and virtues.

Dec. 17 – Pope's Address to Young Members of Italian Catholic Action (A.C.R.) – Translated conclusion (December 17, 2015, ZENIT.org).

May the Lord bless you and Our Lady protect you. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Now we will all pray together to Our Lady. Hail Mary ...

Dec. 18 – Pope's Homily at Opening of Holy Door in Caritas Center – Translated beginning (December 18, 2015, ZENIT.org).

God ... didn't choose a princess, a countess for His Mother, an important person; ... Mary a girl of 16-17, not older, in a lost village on the fringe of the Roman Empire, which no one surely knew that village. Joseph, a youth who loved her and wanted to marry her; a carpenter who earned the bread, all in simplicity, in a hidden way. And also in the rejection, because they were engaged and in such a small village you know how gossip is. They go around ... And Joseph realizes that she is pregnant, but he was a just man. Everything hidden, even with calumny, with gossip. And the Angel explains the mystery to Joseph: "the child that your bride bears is the work of God, work of the Holy Spirit." When Joseph awoke from his sleep he did what the Angel of the Lord ordered him. And he went to her and married her.

Dec. 20 – Angelus Address: On the Wonder of Christmas – Translated beginning (December 20, 2015, ZENIT.org).

The Gospel for this Sunday of Advent highlights the person of Mary. We see her when, just after having conceived in faith the Son of God, she takes on the long trip from Nazareth of Galilee to the hill country of Judah, to visit her cousin Elizabeth. The Angel Gabriel had revealed to her that her relative, who did not have children and was already of advanced age, was in her sixth month of pregnancy (cf Lk 1:26-36). That's why the Virgin, who carried within her an even greater gift and mystery, goes to see Elizabeth and stays with her for three months.

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/angelus-address-on-the-wonder-of-christmas>

Dec. 21 – Pope Francis' Address to Roman Curia – Translated extract (December 21, 2015, ZENIT.org).

11. Intrepidity ... means being immediately ready to take the first step, like Abraham, or Mary.

Dec. 25 – “Urbi et Orbi” Message of His Holiness Pope Francis Christmas 2015 – Translated extract (December 25, 2015, Vatican.va).

On this day, Jesus, the Saviour is born of the Virgin Mary. ... Like Mary, the Church shows to everyone the “sign” of God: the Child whom she bore in her womb and to whom she gave birth, yet who is the Son of the Most High, since he “is of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 1:20).

Dec. 26 – Angelus – Translated conclusion (December 26, 2015, Vatican.va).

May the Virgin Mary, to whom we entrust those — and unfortunately there are so many — who like St Stephen suffer persecution in the name of the faith, our many martyrs of today, direct our prayer to receive and give forgiveness.

[After the Angelus]

I renew to all of you the wish that contemplating the Child Jesus, with Mary and Joseph at his side, may engender an attitude of reciprocal mercy and love in families, in parish and religious communities, in movements and associations, in all the faithful and in all people of good will.

Dec. 27 – Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis – Translated extracts (December 27, 2015, Vatican.va).

In the same way, Joseph and Mary, in the company of Jesus, go as pilgrims to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover (cf. Lk 2:41-52).

... For example, how comforting it is for us to reflect on Mary and Joseph teaching Jesus how to pray! This is a sort of pilgrimage, the pilgrimage of education in prayer. And it is comforting also to know that throughout the day they would pray together, and then go each Sabbath to the synagogue to listen to readings from the Law and the Prophets, and to praise the Lord with the assembly. Certainly, during their pilgrimage to Jerusalem, they prayed by singing the Psalm: “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’ Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem (122:1-2).

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2015/documents/papa-francesco_20151227_omelia-santa-famiglia.html

Dec. 27 – Angelus – Translated beginning (December 27, 2015, Vatican.va).

Today’s Gospel passage invites families to welcome the light of hope that comes from the home of Nazareth, in which Jesus’ childhood unfolded in joy. Jesus, says St Luke, “increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man” (2:52). The

nuclear family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is for each believer and especially for families an authentic school of the Gospel. Here we admire the fulfilment of the divine plan to make of the family a special community of life and love. Here we learn that every Christian nuclear family is called to be a “domestic church”, to make the Gospel virtues shine and become a leaven of good in society. The classic traits of the Holy Family are: reflection and prayer, mutual understanding and respect, and a spirit of sacrifice, work and solidarity.

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2015/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20151227.html

Dec. 30 – General Audience: On the Nativity – Translated extracts (December 30, 2015, ZENIT.org).

She [Saint Theresa of Lisieux] - who is also a Doctor of the Church - was able to live and witness to that "spiritual childhood" which truly assimilates, in the school of the Virgin Mary, the humility of God who, for our sake, became a child.

... Then, there is a big jump up to when he is 12 years old, when Mary and Joseph go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Passover, and instead of returning with His parents in the Temple, he stops to talk to the doctors of the law.

... May the icon of the crib that we contemplate these days help you, dear young people, to imitate the Holy Family, the model of true love.

Dec. 31 – Pope's Homily for First Vespers for Solemnity of Mary Mother of God – Translated conclusion (January 4, 2016, ZENIT.org).

May the positive contribution of Christian witness never be lacking, to enable Rome, in keeping with its history and with the maternal intercession of Mary *Salus Populi Romani*, to be the privileged interpreter of faith, of hospitality, of fraternity and of peace.

Dec. 31 – Francis' Dialogue With Singers of 'Pueri Cantores' – Translated conclusion (January 5, 2016, ZENIT.org).

Let us pray to Our Lady, each one in his own language. [Hail Mary]